

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 97-239-C - ORDER NO. 2003-423

IN RE: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an) ORDER GRANTING
Intrastate Universal Service Fund.) REQUEST TO EXTEND
) DEADLINE FOR FILING
) TARIFFS ASSOCIATED
) WITH THE STATE
) UNIVERSAL SERVICE
) FUND

Commission Order No. 2001-996 sets out the guidelines and administrative procedures for the USF, and provides that after the Initial Phase, on April 1 of each year, beginning in 2003, each ILEC receiving USF support may file tariff reductions and request additional USF support to fund the continued removal of implicit support contained in rates. Such filings will be considered by the Commission and a decision rendered by September 1 of the same year for inclusion in the state USF as sized each October 1. Additionally, Order

No. 2001-996 provides that companies seeking rate reductions shall also file detailed cost data clearly demonstrating that implicit support exists in the rates that are proposed to be reduced. Any such tariff filings shall be made by April 1, 2003 and the Commission's decision will be rendered by August 1, 2003.

Previously, Verizon and BellSouth were granted extensions to file the Companies' tariffs associated with the USF by Commission Order Nos. 2003-280 and 2003-221, respectively, whereby the deadline was extended June 1, 2003. Now, Verizon, by letter of May 29, 2003, and BellSouth, by Motion dated May 30, 2003, request additional extensions of time until September 1, 2003, in which to file the Companies' tariffs associated with the USF.

In its request, Verizon asserts that the Company has been working to identify implicit support in its rates; however, due to other requirements, Verizon has not had an opportunity to complete its analyst. Accordingly, Verizon requests an extension consistent with the requests made by the South Carolina Telephone Coalition and ALLTEL.

BellSouth, in its Motion, states that during this week's agenda conference¹, the Commission granted certain other companies additional extensions (until September 1, 2003) to make the USF tariff filings. Hence, according to BellSouth, in order to facilitate the Commission's ability to consider all such tariff filings at or near the same time, BellSouth respectfully requests that its deadline for filings in the present docket also be extended to September 1, 2003.

¹ "[T]his week's agenda conference" as stated herein relates to the Commission's weekly agenda meeting that was held May 27, 2003.

After review of Verizon's and BellSouth's requests, the Commission finds and concludes that the requests for additional extensions of time to file the Companies' tariffs associated with the USF should be granted.

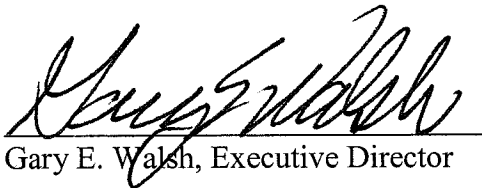
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The latest deadline of June 1, 2003, granted to Verizon in Commission Order No. 2003-280, shall be extended to September 1, 2003, for Verizon to file its tariffs associated with the South Carolina Universal Service Fund.
2. The latest deadline of June 1, 2003, granted to BellSouth in Commission Order No. 2003-221, shall be extended to September 1, 2003, for BellSouth to file its tariffs associated with the South Carolina Universal Service Fund.
3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.



Mignon L. Clyburn, Chairman

ATTEST:


Gary E. Walsh, Executive Director

(SEAL)